

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of distributed collaborative computing comprising:

- 5 partitioning a collaboration function into sub-functions;
- 10 assigning at least one said sub-function to each of a plurality of logical processes;
- 15 associating a respective management process with each of said plurality of logical processes, said logical processes configured so that each said logical process is capable of communicating with every other said logical process thru said respective management process;
- 20 wherein said communicating employs a secure protocol on a dedicated network.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said secure protocol comprises encryption.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said secure protocol comprises compression.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said secure protocol comprises TCP/IP messages employing a proprietary message syntax.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said secure protocol comprises a proprietary message syntax, compression, and encryption.

5

6. A computer program for use in distributed collaborative computing, comprising computer instructions for:

partitioning a collaboration function into sub-
functions;
10 assigning at least one said sub-function to each
of a plurality of logical processes;
associating a respective management process with
each of said plurality of logical processes,
said logical processes configured so that
15 each said logical process is capable of
communicating with every other said logical
process thru said respective management
process;
20 communicating between said logical processes using
said respective management processes; and
monitoring said respective management processes
with a single supervisor process;
wherein said communicating employs a secure protocol on
25 a dedicated network.

7. The computer program of Claim 6, wherein said secure protocol comprises encryption.

8. The computer program of Claim 6, wherein said secure protocol comprises compression.

9. The computer program of Claim 6, wherein said secure protocol comprises TCP/IP messages employing a proprietary message syntax.

10. The computer program of Claim 6, wherein said
5 secure protocol comprises a proprietary message syntax,
compression, and encryption.

11.. A computer-readable medium storing a computer
10 program executable by a plurality of server computers,
the computer program comprising computer instructions
for:

partitioning a collaboration function into sub-
functions;
15 assigning at least one said sub-function to each
of a plurality of logical processes;
associating a respective management process with
each of said plurality of logical processes,
said logical processes configured so that
20 each said logical process is capable of
communicating with every other said logical
process thru said respective management
process;
communicating between said logical processes using
25 said respective management processes; and
monitoring said respective management processes
with a single supervisor process;
wherein said communicating employs a secure protocol on
a dedicated network.

12. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11,
wherein said secure protocol comprises encryption.

13. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11,
wherein said secure protocol comprises compression.

5 14. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11,
wherein said secure protocol comprises TCP/IP messages
employing a proprietary message syntax.

10 15. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11,
wherein said secure protocol comprises a proprietary
message syntax, compression, and encryption.

16. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier
wave, comprising computer instructions for:

15 partitioning a collaboration function into sub-
functions;
assigning at least one said sub-function to each
of a plurality of logical processes;
associating a respective management process with
20 each of said plurality of logical processes,
said logical processes configured so that
each said logical process is capable of
communicating with every other said logical
process thru said respective management
process;
25 communicating between said logical processes using
said respective management processes; and

monitoring said respective management processes
with a single supervisor process;
wherein said communicating employs a secure protocol on
a dedicated network.

5 17. The computer data signal of Claim 16, wherein
said secure protocol comprises encryption.

18. The computer data signal of Claim 16, wherein
said secure protocol comprises compression.

10 19. The computer data signal of Claim 16, wherein
said secure protocol comprises TCP/IP messages
employing a proprietary message syntax.

20. The computer data signal of Claim 16, wherein
said secure protocol comprises a proprietary message
syntax, compression, and encryption.